

Appendix A.

1. (Currently Amended) A method for establishing control signaling between nodes connected to the same communication link, said link carrying a bitstream that is divided into frames, each frame in turn being divided into time slots, said time ~~slot~~ slots being allocatable to form circuit-switched channels, said method comprising the steps of:

all nodes connected to said link using, at link start-up, the same predefined time slot or set of time slots in each frame of said frames to receive control signaling messages from and transmit control signaling messages to nodes connected to said link;

said nodes establishing, using control signaling via said predefined time slot or set of time slots, respective control channels, defined by respective time slots or sets of time slots in said frames, reserved for transmission of control signaling messages from respective ones of said nodes;

each respective one of said nodes using, when having been reserved such a respective control channel, its respective control channel for sending control signaling messages to other nodes connected to said link, the other nodes on the link accessing this respective control channel only for receiving control signaling messages.

2. (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in claim 1, said step of said nodes establishing respective control channels to be used for transmission of control signaling messages from respective ones of said nodes comprising said nodes first determining, using control signaling via said predefined time slot or set of time slots, which nodes that shall have reserved write access to which time slots of said frame, each respective node then selecting its respective time slot or set of time slots, to be used as ~~it's~~ its control channel, from the time slots that it has so been determined to have reserved write access to and informing, using control signaling via said predefined time slot or set of time slots, other nodes of the definition of said respective time slot or set of time slots to be used as the node's control channel for it's transmission of control signaling messages.

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11. (Currently Amended) A method for establishing control signaling between nodes connected to the same communication link, said link carrying a bitstream that is divided into

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Cont.

frames, each frame in turn being divided into time slots, said time slot ~~be~~ slots being allocatable to define circuit-switched channels, said method being performed by a subject node of said nodes and comprising the steps of:

using, at link start-up, a predefined time slot or set of time slots in each frame of said frames to receive control signaling messages from and to transmit control signaling messages to other nodes connected to said link, said predefined time slot or set of time slots being the same for all nodes connected to said link;

establishing, using control signaling via said predefined time slot or set of time slots, a control channel defined by another time slot or set of time slots in said frames to be used exclusively by the subject node for transmission of control signaling messages to other nodes connected to said link; and, having done so,

using said control channel to transmit control signaling messages to other nodes connected to said link.

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22. (Currently Amended) A method for establishing control signaling between nodes connected to the same communication link, said link carrying a bitstream that is divided into frames, each frame in turn being divided into time slots, said time slot ~~be~~ slots being allocatable to define circuit-switched channels, said method comprising the steps of:

at link start-up said nodes using at link start-up predefined point-to-point channels to interconnect neighbor nodes on said link, said predefined point-to-point channels all being defined by the same predefined time slot or set of time slots in each frame of said frames each interconnecting neighbor nodes on said link and all together forming a packet switched control signaling channel for control signaling;

said nodes establishing using control signaling via said packet switched control signaling channel to establish respective circuit switched point-to-multipoint control signaling channels defined by respective time slots or set of time slots on said frames to be used for transmission of control signaling messages from respective exclusive ones of said nodes.